

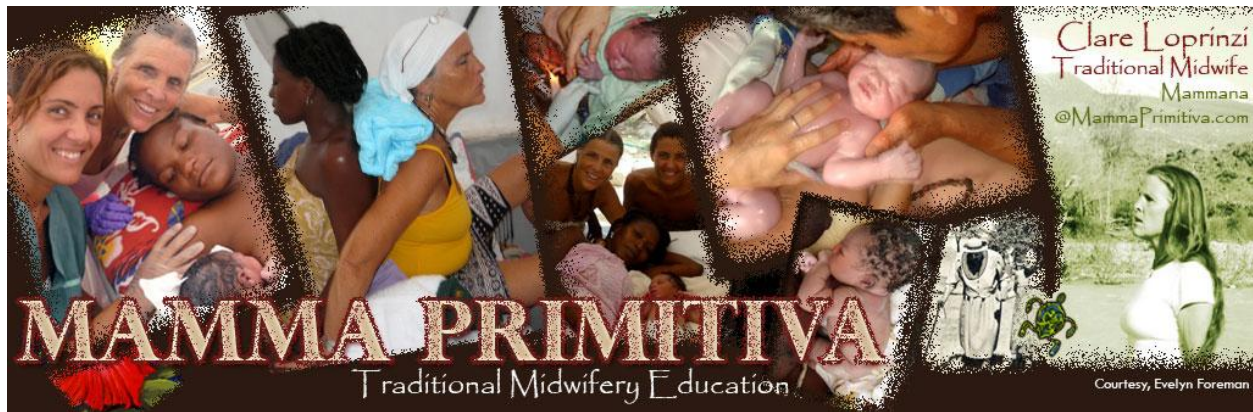
To our family and friends

As many of you know we have been deeply involved in a midwifery model of care clinic in Jacmel, Haiti. We are on the advisory board and Clare is on the board. We recently returned from a month there. It was profound experience for both of us and has left us even more motivated to work to support and ensure the survival of this amazing clinic, Mother Health International.

Let us tell you what we saw and experienced in Haiti. It was a rare child who did not have a distended belly because of malnourishment. It was a rare child who had shoes on their feet unless they were going to school. Families will take most of their money to send their children to school. The Haitian people who have endured extreme hardship for political and economic reasons now have their circumstances more severe due to the earthquake and the introduction of cholera from United Nations peace keeping forces. While many of these soldiers are doing their best to help, many too have deeply abused the women and young girls and the people they are charged with protecting.

A little history about Haiti: Haitians were all slaves first by Spanish in 1492 when they brought African people to America. In 1625, French people signed a treaty to colonize Haitians. They did not want Black people to be free and because they lost the war, they prevented all of the other countries to help Haiti. They asked for a lot of money for Haitians to be recognized as a free country. In 1825 President Boyer Jean Pierre started to buy Haitians their freedom. It was finished being paid off in 1974. They have endured Marshall Law under the United States and decades of repressive dictatorships and ongoing interference with their internal affairs. There is 98% deforestation and the environment is hurting to say the least. 98% of the people live in poverty and the remaining wealthy two percent run the country. There are no significant taxes and governmental infrastructure. The overwhelming poverty resulted in the use of poor concrete aggregate in most of the buildings that collapsed in the 2010 earthquake.

The strength and resilience of the Haitian people we worked with was awe-inspiring. It literally filled our hearts and souls every day we were there. It has moved us to write this letter and work harder for the survival of this amazing birth center, which is becoming a model clinic throughout the world. Our day-to-day concerns that we confront in the United States feel really small compared to what the people we worked with in Haiti deal with all the time. We felt profoundly grateful to work along side of them and help them build this community resource. The Haitians who work at this clinic and birth at this clinic are not only are concerned about their lives, but they want to help Haiti, their region and themselves. This clinic is amazing because it is a true reflection of Haitian women. Many have given to Haiti and never knew if their money went anywhere. Please read and see where your money would specifically go.



Clare started a midwifery education program that pays for the salaries of twenty Haitians; most of them are women supporting families and extended families. Most of the families are living in tents still and hand to mouth saving all their money for their children's' education.

This clinic has done close 300 births since the earthquake and over a thousand prenatals and postnatals. More and more women are coming to this clinic to ensure not just a peaceful entry into the world for their child but a healthy entry. Clean water is not available to most. 670 women out of 100,000 die from childbirth. 49 children die per 1000. Our clinic statistics show that 99% of the babies are not only surviving but are seen postnatally and are breastfeeding and growing well.

Mamma Primitiva, an online midwifery educational program developed by Clare with the help of her dear friend Evie who put together the website. This pays for salaries for the Haitian running the clinic with midwives from around the world coming to help them. However we have a number of unmet expenses at this time. These include an annual operating budget of \$ 95,000. not including \$8,000 yearly rent due January 1st. The budget is for salaries for only MHI Haitian staff and expenses as it relates to the house for food, medicines, electricity, water and medical supplies. Our budget is nominal compared to most birth clinics. We also have a number of other projects that we must accomplish such as infrastructure, maintenance and repairs, expanded laboratory testing and bathrooms and septic. We are trying to raise \$15,000. in the next couple of months to help to continue to run the clinic.

Raising our children we decided not to spent money on Christmas and instead make it a time of giving. We are asking you to do the same, not only does it feel great but we as people stop contributing to the raping of the earth's resources and instead help with the healing of mother earth and her children. We are hopeful that you will too feel the same thing and go to our website, www.motherhealthinternational.org and donate. We are asking families to give a hundred dollars if they can or whatever feels right.



We also encourage you to meet the Haitians on staff who run the birth clinic in Haiti by visiting our blog, www.motherhealthinternationalhaiti.blogspot.com and read their stories written in their own words.

With all love and respect,

Joe and Clare